



## MEETING SUMMARY

### California Water Plan Update 2018

Policy Advisory Committee

October 25, 2016 | Sacramento, CA

Department of Water Resources

*Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, Sacramento State University*

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## Background

For almost 60 years, the California Water Plan (CWP) has served as the State government's comprehensive guide to managing and developing water resources across California. Currently, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has focused the CWP to work as a key resource to implement Governor Edmond G. Brown Jr.'s California Water Action Plan (WAP).

The collaborative planning framework of the CWP provides elected officials, agencies, tribes, water and resource managers, businesses, academia, other interest-based stakeholders and the general public to make informed decisions regarding California's water future. DWR is required to update the plan every five years. The last several versions of the plan have emphasized the State's commitment to integrated water management. This was the inaugural meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee (Policy AC) for CWP Update 2018 (Update 2018). All five volumes of Update 2013 are available for reference or download at <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2013/final/>.

## Meeting Objectives

- Review focus of Update 2018
- Describe California Water Sustainability
- Recap Policy AC charge, work plan, and meeting deliverables schedules
- Preview agendas for Inaugural Policy AC Meeting (Oct 25 AM) & 2016 Plenary Meeting (Oct 25 PM)



## A. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR welcomed participants and reviewed general housekeeping items. DWR staff and Policy AC members introduced themselves. See Section E, below, for a list of attendees.

Gary Bardini, Deputy Director, DWR provided welcoming remarks. He reflected on the progress of the CWP, highlighting the 'world that once was' the 'world that is' and the 'world we want to build for the future'. Reviewing the challenges to implementation, he emphasized the connection between water use and land use, the interactions between local, State, and Federal government, and building financing institutions to meet financing needs.

Mr. Bardini also reviewed the essence of the WAP, focusing on water reliability issues. He summarized the actions and emphasized the importance of continually improving upon the goals and actions. In an effort to highlight parallel efforts, he briefly discussed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Mr. Bardini explained that SGMA seeks to manage the outcomes to groundwater use and empowers local agencies and communities to work collaboratively to achieve conservation goals.

Mr. Bardini also noted the State's continued effort to foster, improve, and build capacity. He highlighted the most prominent challenges including building capacity of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), increasing the capacity and transparency of fundamental and technical information flow, and fostering the capacity to plan at the State, county, and local scales.

He concluded with a synopsis of past project successes. There are three principle items necessary to 'building the world that we need' including, 1) partnership, 2) that partnership must innovate and create new processes to meet the challenges, and 3) build capacity among the institutions.

## B. Context for Preparing Update 2018

Mr. Guivetchi provided an overview of CWP Update 2013 (Update 2013) and offered context for building on the framework that Update 2013 developed. Update 2013 provided a comprehensive suite of recommendations designed to make California water management systems more resilient and sustainable for future generations. From Update 2013, three themes emerged, 1) the State's commitment to integrated water management (IWM), 2) strengthening government agency alignment, and 3) investing in innovation and infrastructure.

In January 2014, the Governor released the WAP, which seeks to achieve the three R's: reliability, restoration, and resilience. The WAP encompasses many State plans and initiatives (accounting for the entire water cycle), which DWR must consider and integrate into Update 2018. DWR recognizes there are barriers and challenges to implementing the Governor's WAP. These key issues include, but are not limited to public health and safety, unreliable water supplies, the land use and water use nexus, climate change, and water governance and finance. The time has come to develop funding strategies to implement the prioritized actions. For the first time, Update 2018 will include a five-year prioritized State Investment Plan and a Finance



Plan. This valuable change will take the CWP from a strategic plan to an operational guidance document for the legislature and future administrations to implement.

### Clarifications

In response to questions following the presentation, DWR staff clarified the following:

- DWR recently completed an effort assessing Integrated Regional Water Management Plan efforts and agencies, and grouped the agencies by administrative functions (i.e. operations, land use, or capital improvement). DWR determined there was a high level of interaction between agencies at the local level. This translates to State and Federal interactions as well. It is important to incorporate diverse stakeholders to increase interactions between local, State, and Federal Agencies.
- The collaborative approach has become the essence of the CWP.

### Discussion

Policy AC members offered recommendations and comments (summarized below unless otherwise indicated as public comment).

### Recommendations/Comments

- It is important to transition decision-making processes from adversarial to collaborative.

## C. Envisioning California Water Sustainability

Paul Massera, CWP Program Manager, DWR provided a brief presentation highlighting sustainability in California. The CWP framework allows for progressive collaboration at various scales to make informed and actionable recommendations that frame sustainability. Mr. Massera also reviewed a handout (Envisioning California Water Sustainability) that outlines California's Societal Values and Intended Outcomes for water sustainability. The document also indicates that sustainability is not an achievable target, but rather a direction that is consistently, "monitored, evaluated, acted upon, and adjusted." Mr. Massera concluded his presentation reviewing the draft outline of Update 2018.

### Clarifications

In response to questions following the presentation, DWR staff clarified the following:

- State agencies will track economy progress given external influences by ensuring the metrics are specific to the type of sphere of influence, governance structures (in California water management) have. It is important to consider and adaptively manage the external factors to ensure we are making investments with the highest probability of success.
- The category of Enriching Experiences is the most subjective; however, it also includes the most tangibles. An enriching experience is an enhancement and encourages satisfaction and well-being; it is enhancing access and opportunities. Enriching experiences are a part of the triple bottom line; they are what motivates people. DWR added this category because it aids in rounding out the narrative for how water effects



the public. DWR is using the CWP to guide the conversation around intended outcomes, determine where there are shared outcomes, and build indicators around those shared outcomes.

- It will require a cultural shift to start managing water from a perspective of economic benefit to one of sustainability. To be successful, it will require an ongoing process of reevaluation. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach. The State will set the parameters and allow the regions to identify the metrics and reexamine them regularly. No one region is independent, there are limits; but the State will advocate for those limits to be as broad and customizable as feasible.
- The river basin scale is the most appropriate scale for financing.
- It is important for this group to discuss the role of State government in water management. The CWP process can provide technical assistance, financial assistance, and standardization. How can State government be most effective?

## Discussion

Policy AC members offered recommendations and comments summarized below unless otherwise indicated as public comment.

## Recommendations/Comments

- There is an opportunity to move the metrics forward and gain consensus for how we will measure success and where to redirect resources.
- This is an integrated economy. Communities across the State and nation must work together as part of a larger system. It would be helpful to develop a framework that measures that progress.
- One reward that members commonly desire is the implementation of the overall program to ensure groundwater availability. The information on reliable water supplies is good, but constituents will ask, "At what level?" Suppose we get to 2040 and there are reliable and sustainable water supplies in groundwater basins, yet the economy has reduced by 40 percent; is that acceptable? Consider alternative visioning in the CWP to ensure progress is on track.
- As DWR is drafting the vision, consider regional information sharing on metrics and outcomes. Regions are struggling to define sustainability and identify outcomes. Encourage collaboration and interagency information sharing.
- Consider adding, "end user behavior" to the list of drivers of change.
- Over the last decade, California has tightened the financing silos, (i.e. 'x' dollars must be spent on 'y') going against IWM.
- The Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District creates a financing authority that has a list of authorities within it (i.e. assessments for benefit). The document is a broad authority, and applicable to most purposes.
- Members appreciated the consistent message from all State agencies to align locally.
- If I ask my board of directors what they need from the State for alignment, the answers are; enforce the CWP, take care of the watersheds, ensure quality drinking water for everyone, and invest in water storage.



- It is important to have a candid discussion of the assessment. Each region is different, thus, the State role should differ by regional needs (i.e. more emphasis in the regions that do not have the resources to be successful).

## D. Recap of Material from Policy AC Orientation Webinar

DWR staff briefly reviewed the handouts and offered copies of Update 2013 and the regional reports for reference. DWR staff notified members of the upcoming Survey Monkey to determine future meeting dates. In a parallel effort, DWR recently launched the Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal AC) process. Members of that committee look forward to agency alignment, government-to-government relationships, and a joint Policy AC/Tribal AC meeting.

### Discussion

Policy AC members offered recommendations and comments summarized below unless otherwise indicated as public comment.

### Recommendations/Comments

- [Public Comment:] Reinforce collaboration and incentives at a local level. Next year will have an aggressive agenda; it would be beneficial to have a conversation with the authors of the CWAP and move forward together in these efforts.

## E. Attendees

### Agency Staff

Name	Agency / Organization
Gary Bardini	Department of Water Resources
Kamyar Guivetchi	Department of Water Resources
Arthur Hinojosa	Department of Water Resources
Jennifer Kofoid	Department of Water Resources
Paul Massera	Department of Water Resources
Lewis Moeller	Department of Water Resources
Emily Adams	Center for Collaborative Policy

### Policy Advisory Committee Members

Name	Agency / Organization
Colin Bailey	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Grace Chan	Metropolitan Water District
Norma Comacho	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Joe Grindstaff	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
David Guy	Northern California Water Association
Jack Hawks	California Water Association
Rick Johnson	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency



John Kingsbury	Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
Erin Mackey	California Urban Water Agencies
Mark Pestrella	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Chris Petersen	Groundwater Resources Association
Tim Quinn	Association of California Water Agencies
Mark Seits	Floodplain Management Association
Fred Silva	California Forward
Lester Snow	California Water Foundation